

# **Arizona Policy Training Institute Evaluation**

## **Steps to a Healthier Arizona Initiative**

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### **Executive Summary**

There were a total of 196 participants at the Arizona Policy Training Institute Conference, held April 11-12, 2007. Although 76 took the pre-test prior to the conference, 68 took the post-test immediately following the conference, and 66 took the 3-month follow-up survey in August, only 23 surveys could be matched and were used for the overall comparison. Because the sample size of matched surveys is so small, the pre-test, post-test, and 3-month follow-up survey results were also included. Forty-three of the respondents took both the pre-test and post-test, while only 23 respondents took all three tests.

When asked about the major advantages for organizational practice and policy change approaches in public health (*Item 10*), the most common responses were sustainability, increased buy-in, greater impact, better collaboration, and more centralized efforts. Overall, respondents thought organizational practice and policy change approaches would be more efficient in accomplishing public health work than other approaches. When respondents were asked about the critical ingredients for successful organizational practice and policy change in public health work (*Item 11*), the most common responses were education, commitment, collaboration, community involvement, and thorough understanding of data and communities involved.

Generally, the percentage of respondents who thought they could be somewhat successful in convincing other public health advocates to prioritize organizational practice and policy change efforts in their work plans for the coming year (*Item 13*) increased from the time prior to the conference to the time immediately following the conference, and also three months after the conference. Overall, the percentage of respondents who felt as though they would be somewhat successful in achieving actual organizational practice and policy change during the next year (*Item 14*) also increased in that same time period.

### **Survey Response Rates**

	<b>Pre-Test N=76</b>	<b>Post-Test N=68</b>	<b>3-mo F/U N=65</b>
<b>Response Rate (%) N=196</b>	39%	35%	33%

**Pre-Test:** April 11, 2007, prior to Arizona Policy Institute Training Conference

**Post-Test:** April 12, 2007, following Arizona Policy Institute Training Conference

**3-mo F/U:** August 2007, three month follow-up after Arizona Policy Institute Training Conference

**N=** Number of respondents

N= Number of respondents for that particular question

NOTE: The statements following the tables below are only representative of the data in the matched column.

#### **Public Health Background (Items 4-8)**

##### **4. How long have you worked in public health?**

<b>Years Experience</b>	<b>Pre-Test N=75</b>	<b>Post-Test N=68</b>	<b>3-mo F/U N=65</b>	<b>Matched N=23</b>
Less than 2 years	13 (17%)	14 (21%)	11 (17%)	5 (22%)
Between 2-5 years	20 (27%)	18 (26%)	13 (20%)	3 (13%)
Between 5-10 years	19 (25%)	14 (21%)	14 (22%)	7 (30%)
More than 10 years	23 (31%)	22 (32%)	27 (42%)	8 (35%)
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>75</b>	<b>68</b>	<b>65</b>	<b>23</b>

The majority of respondents have worked in public health for more than 10 years.

##### **5. What kind of organization do you currently work for?**

<b>Organization</b>	<b>Pre-Test N=74</b>	<b>Post-Test N=68</b>	<b>3-mo F/U N=66</b>	<b>Matched N=23</b>
State government	23 (31%)	21 (31%)	22 (33%)	9 (39%)
Local government	17 (23%)	10 (15%)	12 (18%)	7 (30%)
American Indian community	5 (7%)	4 (6%)	2 (3%)	0
Community-based organization	6 (8%)	9 (13%)	8 (12%)	0
Healthcare facility	10 (14%)	11 (16%)	8 (12%)	3 (13%)
Business	0	1 (1%)	0	0
Other <sup>†</sup>	13 (18%)	12 (18%)	14 (21%)	4 (17%)
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>74</b>	<b>68</b>	<b>66</b>	<b>23</b>

<sup>†</sup>Others include community health centers, universities, education, Head Start, the federal government, veterans' affairs, Indian Health Services, tribal health organizations, non-profit organizations, and coalitions.

Most participants work for the state or local government. Of the 23 matched respondents, no one represented the American Indian community, community-based organizations, or businesses.

##### **6. Which of the following domains do you currently work directly with? (Choose all that apply)**

<b>Domains Worked With</b>	<b>Pre-Test N=76</b>	<b>Post-Test N=68</b>	<b>3-mo F/U N=66</b>	<b>Matched N=23</b>
Communities	66 (87%)	54 (79%)	53 (80%)	19 (83%)
Schools	44 (58%)	34 (50%)	32 (48%)	9 (39%)
Worksites	33 (43%)	28 (41%)	17 (26%)	9 (39%)
Healthcare	47 (62%)	48 (71%)	35 (55%)	12 (52%)
Other <sup>†</sup>	11 (14%)	7 (10%)	14 (21%)	5 (22%)

<sup>†</sup>Others include coalitions, small agencies, Head Start, prisons, churches/faith-based organizations, tribal tobacco programs, senior citizens, connections, rehabilitation with the blind and visually impaired, collaborative, and binational.

The majority of respondents work in two or more domains, especially communities and healthcare facilities.

**7. Which of the following populations does your work mostly serve? (Choose all that apply)**

Populations Served	Pre-Test N=76	Post-Test N=68	3-mo F/U N=66	Matched N=23
General Population	39 (51%)	37 (54%)	34 (52%)	16 (70%)
Rural or Small Town	41 (54%)	35 (51%)	40 (61%)	16 (70%)
Suburban	12 (16%)	10 (15%)	14 (21%)	6 (26%)
Urban	18 (24%)	19 (28%)	18 (27%)	6 (26%)
Racial/Ethnic Minority	45 (59%)	46 (68%)	42 (64%)	16 (70%)
Low Income	54 (71%)	47 (69%)	55 (83%)	18 (78%)
Age				
0-18	46 (61%)	34 (50%)	33 (50%)	13 (57%)
19-49	45 (59%)	31 (46%)	32 (48%)	14 (61%)
50-64	44 (58%)	29 (43%)	28 (42%)	12 (52%)
65+	42 (55%)	28 (41%)	27 (41%)	11 (48%)
Other <sup>†</sup>	9 (12%)	9 (13%)	5 (8%)	3 (13%)

<sup>†</sup>Others include providers in school sectors K-12, women and children, handicapped, border, uninsured, underserved, mental patients, those who abuse substances, CRS members, and idvu.

Most participants serve more than one type of population, and most work with low income populations.

**8. Which of the following risk factors, diseases, or programs do you currently work directly with? (Choose all that apply)**

Risk Factors	Pre-Test N=76	Post-Test N=68	3-mo F/U N=66	Matched N=23
Asthma	23 (31%)	22 (32%)	14 (21%)	3 (13%)
Cancer	15 (20%)	11 (16%)	15 (23%)	5 (22%)
Cardiovascular Disease	20 (26%)	22 (32%)	21 (32%)	5 (22%)
Diabetes	35 (46%)	33 (49%)	28 (42%)	9 (39%)
Infant Mortality	10 (13%)	8 (12%)	12 (18%)	3 (13%)
Injury	13 (17%)	7 (10%)	13 (20%)	5 (22%)
Nutrition	51 (67%)	42 (62%)	44 (67%)	14 (61%)
Overweight/Obesity	46 (61%)	40 (59%)	36 (55%)	12 (52%)
Physical Activity	46 (61%)	36 (53%)	37 (56%)	13 (57%)
Steps	23 (30%)	16 (24%)	14 (21%)	6 (26%)
Tobacco	26 (34%)	20 (29%)	19 (29%)	6 (26%)
WIC	17 (22%)	17 (25%)	16 (24%)	4 (17%)
Other <sup>†</sup>	13 (17%)	16 (24%)	15 (23%)	4 (17%)

<sup>†</sup>Others include workforce recruitment and retention, Arizona Living Well, infectious diseases, HIV/AIDS, STDs, Hepatitis C, prenatal care, preconception health, clinician workforce access to care, sexual violence substance abuse, depression, CRS, dentistry/oral health, CBO, IDU, and immunizations.

The majority of participants work with more than program, especially nutrition, overweight/obesity, and physical activity.

### **Public Health Policy Knowledge (Items 9-11)**

9. Which of the following do you think represent “organizational practice and policy change?” (Choose all that apply)

Represent “organizational practice and policy change”	Pre-Test N=76	Post-Test N=68	3-mo F/U N=66	Matched N=23
Healthcare system adopts a population-based patient registry	41 (54%)	44 (65%)	42 (64%)	17 (74%)
Media campaign to create health awareness	39 (51%)	37 (54%)	25 (38%)	9 (39%)
Annual community event sponsors agree to have smoke-free venue	49 (64%)	52 (76%)	46 (70%)	14 (61%)
Worksite expands benefits package	43 (57%)	47 (69%)	35 (53%)	12 (52%)
School prohibits “idling” for parents/buses while waiting for children	38 (50%)	53 (78%)	50 (77%)	21 (91%)
Community earmarks funds for sidewalk maintenance	36 (47%)	49 (72%)	33 (50%)	11 (48%)
Health booth at county fair	18 (24%)	19 (28%)	6 (9%)	1 (4%)

The majority of participants thought that more than one of the choices represented organizational practice and policy change: schools prohibiting idle buses and cars, and the healthcare system adopting a population-based patient registry.

NOTE: Items 10 and 11 were open-ended questions and were summarized qualitatively.

10. What do you see as the **major advantages** for “organizational practice and policy change” approaches in public health work? (Or indicate if “don’t know”)

The most common responses were sustainability, increased buy-in, greater impact, better collaboration, and more centralized efforts. Overall, respondents thought organizational practice and policy change approaches would be more efficient in accomplishing public health work than other approaches.

11. What do you think are the **critical ingredients** for successful “organizational practice and policy change” in public health work? (Or indicate if “don’t know.”)

The most common responses were collaboration, teamwork, good communication, determination, willingness to participate, thorough understanding of data and communities involved, education, and community involvement.

**Self-Efficacy for Public Health Policy Promotion (Items 12-15)**

For the following use a scale of 1-5 where:

- 1= "Definitely Unsuccessful"  
 2= "Somewhat Unsuccessful"  
 3= "Neither Unsuccessful Nor Successful"  
 4= "Somewhat Successful"  
 5= "Definitely Successful"  
 6= "Do Not Know"

**12. During the past year, how successful have you been at achieving "organizational practice and policy change" in your work?**

Success	Pre-Test N=76	Post-Test N=68	3-mo F/U N=66	Matched N=23
Definitely Unsuccessful	10 (13%)	5 (7%)	1 (2%)	0
Somewhat Unsuccessful	8 (11%)	12 (18%)	7 (11%)	3 (13%)
Neither Unsuccessful Nor Successful	35 (46%)	18 (26%)	22 (33%)	9 (39%)
Somewhat Successful	13 (17%)	23 (34%)	21 (32%)	8 (35%)
Definitely Successful	2 (3%)	2 (3%)	7 (11%)	1 (4%)
Do Not Know	8 (11%)	8 (12%)	8 (12%)	2 (9%)
TOTAL	76	68	66	23

Most participants felt that they were neither unsuccessful nor successful at achieving organizational practice and policy change in their work.

**13. Today, how successful do you think you can be in convincing other public health advocates to prioritize "organizational practice and policy change" efforts in their work plans for the coming year?**

Success	Pre-Test N=76	Post-Test N=68	3-mo F/U N=66	Matched N=23
Definitely Unsuccessful	4 (5%)	1 (1%)	1 (2%)	1 (4%)
Somewhat Unsuccessful	18 (24%)	3 (4%)	7 (11%)	3 (13%)
Neither Unsuccessful Nor Successful	22 (29%)	16 (24%)	16 (24%)	4 (17%)
Somewhat Successful	18 (24%)	35 (51%)	31 (47%)	12 (52%)
Definitely Successful	4 (5%)	10 (15%)	4 (6%)	1 (4%)
Do Not Know	10 (13%)	3 (4%)	7 (11%)	2 (9%)
TOTAL	76	68	66	23

More than half of respondents felt as though they would be somewhat successful in convincing other public health advocates to prioritize organizational practice and policy change efforts in their work plans for the coming year.

14. Today, how successful do you think you can be in identifying common “organizational practice and policy change” priorities that meet objectives for a variety of health partners with different disease/risk factor programs?

Success	Pre-Test N=76	Post-Test N=68	3-mo F/U N=66	Matched N=23
Definitely Unsuccessful	3 (4%)	0	1 (2%)	1 (4%)
Somewhat Unsuccessful	15 (20%)	3 (4%)	2 (3%)	1 (4%)
Neither Unsuccessful Nor Successful	21 (28%)	13 (19%)	24 (36%)	9 (39%)
Somewhat Successful	19 (25%)	36 (53%)	22 (33%)	9 (39%)
Definitely Successful	7 (9%)	11 (16%)	12 (18%)	2 (9%)
Do Not Know	11 (14%)	5 (7%)	5 (8%)	1 (4%)
TOTAL	76	68	66	23

The majority of respondents felt as though they would either be somewhat successful, or neither unsuccessful nor successful at identifying common organizational practice and policy change priorities that meet objectives for a variety of health partners with different disease/risk factor programs.

15. Today, how successful do you think you can be in achieving actual “organizational practice and policy change” during the next year?

Success	Pre-Test N=76	Post-Test N=68	3-mo F/U N=66	Matched N=23
Definitely Unsuccessful	2 (3%)	2 (3%)	2 (3%)	2 (9%)
Somewhat Unsuccessful	13 (17%)	3 (4%)	4 (6%)	2 (9%)
Neither Unsuccessful Nor Successful	26 (34%)	15 (22%)	17 (26%)	5 (22%)
Somewhat Successful	21 (28%)	31 (46%)	29 (44%)	12 (52%)
Definitely Successful	3 (4%)	13 (19%)	8 (12%)	1 (4%)
Do Not Know	11 (14%)	4 (6%)	6 (9%)	1 (4%)
TOTAL	76	68	66	23

More than half of the respondents felt as though they would be somewhat successful in achieving actual organizational practice and policy change during the next year.